



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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Centinela Area Office's AB-109 Unit Work To "Giveback"

The "AB 109 Giveback" program has its roots in Thanksgiving when in November 2012, when employees at the Centinela Area Office participated in a fundraising effort to donate a food basket for a local family during the Thanksgiving holiday. According to Deputy Probation Officer Shonte Dudley, there was enough donated to give away two baskets to two women with large families.

"Both ladies were under AB-109 supervision ... and had their last child while in custody," Dudley stated. "With the joy and appreciation that they showed when they picked up their baskets, the seed of the 'Giveback' was planted."

The program really took on a life of its own when DPO Dudley was contacted by a mental health therapist from one of the Department's community-based organizations regarding a mutual probation client who was apparently going through a very tough time.

"He was visibly losing a large amount of weight and it was determined that he was going without food," Dudley explained. "He was receiving General Relief, but as we know, that only goes so far. It was then when I came up with an idea to do an 'AB-1 09 Giveback' in our Unit."

Thanks to the generosity of the Unit, the very appreciative client received two bags filled to the brim with groceries and bottled water. According to Dudley, he was in shock when presented with the bags of groceries and even appeared a bit emotional.

Recipients of these "Givebacks" are chosen by members of the Centinela Area Office AB-1 09 Unit. Dudley says each month the employees of the Unit select one person from one caseload and rotate turns.

"We would give that person a small token to show we care and that we are not just here to lock them up."

The "AB-1 09 Giveback" is made up of a "hospitality kit" that includes toiletries such as a toothbrush, toothpastes, deodorant, soap, shampoo/conditioner, and lotion. The "Giveback" also includes a "food pantry" that includes heat-and-eat meals, snacks, and other non-perishable foodstuffs.

"Due to the population we supervise, especially AB-1 09, there are many transient, indigent, and other persons in need," Dudley explained. "We have noticed that some of the immediate needs can be address temporarily with a one-time hospitality kit and food pantry items."